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always easily distinguished. In the old garden, a hundred yards from the spring, I found a sort of hybrid, larger flowers than *Nepeta Shriveri* of Wythe Co., and apparently abortive efforts to make bad crosses. But in all other localities (except Mr. Draper's yard) the Wythe County type is through the year scrupulously adherent to its character in respect to having flowers *half the size, dark purplish blue* color, *never a cross*, inconspicuous and *widely separated* or no anthers; which I have nothing more to say of than that I shall for the present claim the variety, reverting to the opinion of Prof. Wood some twenty years ago, that the decided and invariable absence of crosses indicated a new flower. No one who compares the two flowers will fail to see the resemblance and the distinctness. I wish those Hyperborean Botanists would designate their chameleon *Nepeta, sporticus* instead of *Glechoma*; and our Wythe plant, Old Ironsides as its face is as unchangeable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

I have found a fourth plant of *Hydrastis*, so they belong to our Flora, though I fear they are very recently naturalized.

About three years ago, I detected a dissepiment of *Draba verna*. Next spring at the same spot I collected nice specimens from an area of a few yards. This spring the woods was carpeted in every direction and the plant appeared on the top of Piney Ridge, about Boyd's Depot, at Rich's Mill, on Caldwell's Hill, and, for aught I know, elsewhere. Mr. Forney's eye never detected it, though he was used to it in North Carolina, and had searched over all these grounds. It is my impression that these sixty-five millions—or more—plants came from that small beginning. I regret to say that the same may be predicated of *Andropogon*, which is marching upon us from Tennessee or the West, and raising its plumes to the dismay of many a farmer. I found *Cedronella cordata* in Pulaski County (Rich Hill) during my last visit, making the third spot in which I have seen it. *Uvularia grandiflora* exists, along with *U. perfoliata* in greatly varied luxuriance, around Wytheville as well as in Pulaski County.—HOWARD SHRIVER, *Wytheville, Va.*

IRIS—Serenio Watson calls the attention of all botanists during this season to the various species of *Iris*, and specimens of flowers, fruit and roots, fresh or dried, from any part of the country, may be sent to the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, and will be of service. The eastern species of the genus need a thorough revision and all botanists should contribute whatever information they can obtain so that the revision can be made thorough and decisive.—J. M. C.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.—*Algæ Exsiccatae Americae Borealis: curantibus W. G. Farlow, C. L. Anderson, D. C. Eaton editæ. Fasc. I.* Under this title is published a set of 50 authentically named North American Seaweeds, many of them rare species from the California collections of Dr. Anderson, and the Key-West collections of Mr. Hooper. Other fasciculi are to follow, until the greater part of our marine Algæ are thus distributed. The edition consists of only thirty copies, of which only ten are for sale. The present selection is made up of red and green seaweeds, in small quarto sheets, and its price is \$8. The black and olive-colored Algæ will be on folio paper, and the price will be \$12. Address Prof. Wm. G. Farlow, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Botanical Contributions, by Asa Gray. *Characters of some little-known or new genera of plants from the Proc. Amer. Acad. Vol. XII., issued, May, 1877.*—Dr. Gray, after having examined for the first time the flowers of *Canotia holacantha* Torr., has placed it in the family of *Rutaceæ*, owing to the structure of the disk, or gynobase. Bentham and Hooker had included it among *Rosaceæ*, and afterwards Baillon put it among the *Celastraceæ*. The plant is from Arizona and is one of the four "spartoid green barked and mainly leafless shrubs" in that dry region; "*Thamnosma montanum*,